

From: ELHoffmann
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/12/02 3:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Since technology changes and evolves so quickly these days, it is impossible that a monopoly can exist. Every company has an equal opportunity to achieve success and Microsoft should not be punished for accomplishing the highest level of success. Over the past ten years, growth of Microsoft has fueled the US economy. As a result of litigating Microsoft, this source of "fuel" has been cut short. Thus it is important to end litigation as soon as possible.

The settlement offers the best solutions to the problem and serves the best interest of the people. We should not continue to weaken our US companies and while risking the chance of another foreign entity take advantage of the software market. There are already several non US companies developing products that will provide very strong competition for Microsoft. Microsoft should be left alone so that they can continue to develop new cost effective products and stay ahead of these foreign competitors. I am very concerned about the large legal bills being forced on Microsoft to defend themselves against this unwarranted litigation. In past years many other US companies had an equal opportunity to develop competitive software but have not been successful simply because what Microsoft has provided has been better and cheaper. I know because I have used much of that software and am very familiar with the cost and functionality.

After more than three years of litigation, it is about time that a settlement was reached. The current agreement ensures that other US competitors have an opportunity to be promoted the same amount as Microsoft. Provided in future Windows programs will be a mechanism that enables all users to easily reconfigure Windows to endorse software programs that are competitive with Microsoft products. In doing this, Microsoft consented to document and disclose necessary interfaces to the competition in order to advocate software compatibility. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to the establishment of a Technical committee. These software engineer experts will monitor Microsoft's business practices and will report any violations of the settlement.

Due to the excessive length of this case, it is necessary to end litigation immediately as it is not beneficial to the parties involved or to the US citizens. I believe the justice department has many more important items on its agenda. This country can not afford additional terrorism so that is where the justice department should be putting these resources (to better use in protect the people of the United States).

Thank you considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Leon Hoffmann